

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 16, 2004 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16, and 22-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter in which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 22, 37, and 46 have been amended to eliminate the phrase, "particularly with respect to the transfer of optical energy from the input of said device," objected to by the Examiner. Editorial changes have also been made to these claims to improve their readability and consistency. No narrowing amendments have been made; nor has any subject matter has been surrendered.

Claim 32 has been canceled which should eliminate the Examiner's second concern raised at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 17-21 and the indication of allowable subject matter in the remaining claims. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's reasons for allowance except to the extent that rely on features not explicitly recited in the independent claims.

This application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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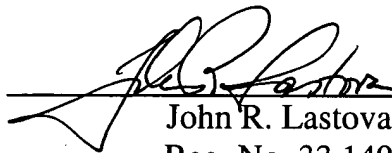
Appl. No. 10/005,819

June 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Lastova", is written over a horizontal line.

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